BY WILLIAM BEATTY.

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PART I. John Hallburton, as he rede along, was in high feather. He had done well at court, better than he had hoped for, having, indeed, had a matter intrusted to him that required delicate handling and some courage. For the handling, though but a novice in intrigue and in the craft that commends a man to a minister, he was confident he had enough to bring the affair to a successful issue, and for courage, he thought he had as much as any man alive. Of the nature of the packet he carried in his saddle bag Haliburton knew nothing,

but that it related to matter of the deepest import he was convinced, more from the stern reminder of the chancellor that he would have to answer for its safe delivery with his life, than from the feverish, fidgety anxiety displayed by the king, when and nail."

The knowledge, however, of the dangerous character of his mission, as implied by the chancellor's words, in no way troubled John Haliburton as he rode at a canter across the moor. He had a good horse himself. In a word, John Haliburton was the bearer of dispatches from the court of James to Lord Hunsdon, the nobleman selected by Elizabeth to open communication with the king of Scots, and his orders were neither to draw bridle nor hold speech or dealing of scots. under him, a stout sword by his side, and, neither to draw bridle nor hold speech or dealing of any kind with any man whatsoever, no matter of what degree he might e, until he had got them into Hunsdon's hands-Sir John Maitland plainly intimating to him at his departure that, notwith-standing every precaution to keep the affair secret, he july anticipated that Haliburion would be intercepted, charging him again on no account to go from his instructions. on no account to go from his instructions, but to hold to his letters as the king had commanded, "tooth and nail," until he teached Hunsdon, when he would be freed from his responsibility. "And faith" the chancellor had added, with a smile, "I think I could hardly have chosen a fitter man." To which Hallburton had replied, with great complacency: "I think not, my

Now, had John Haliburton been a man of the world-that is to say, more a courtier than he was-he might have realized that his enterprise was not like to be so easy accomplishment as he fondly supposed. The whole world just then was crying out against the murder of the queen, and de-nouncing vengeance upon Elizabeth. Politicians on every side were seeking alliances, hatching plots, and endeavoring to overreach one another. Spain was in arms, beat upon invasion. Elizabeth was ng to secure the co-operation of the king of Scots, and James was hovering between revenge and the fear of cutting him-self out of the succession, whilst his Catho-He subjects were almost in open rebellion, offering to assist Philip in his descent upon

To come to a satisfactory and a pecuniary arrangement with Elizabeth, and to safeguard the succession, was the aim of the king and his chanceller; to prevent such an understanding and to revenge the death of Mary, that of the Catholics.
It was at this crisis, then, that John Hali-

burion was intrusted with the special mis-sion referred to, which was intended to pre-pare the way for a definite and an amicable ettlement of all differences, and doubtless is journey might have been accomplished without any incident or event of any kind other than what was to be expected in a country so unsettled as Scotland, had it not been for the fortuitous interview of Jane Kennedy with the king, which happened, as it chanced, on the very day that saw Halihours, and to whom she recounted with minute details the tragedy of her mistress' death, was so strong that he refused to be comforted, denounced vengeance, and swore to have no dealings with England. This outburst of filial affection, however, was inly temporary, but it had its influence up-to the fortune of John Haliburton, notwithstanding, for, through some unguarded word, the nature of his mission was sus-pected by those favorable to Philip, and measures were at once concerted to frushate his embassy.
All unconscious, however, of this unfor-

turate contretemps, John Haliburton pur-sued his way, but as he went gayly forward, trolling forth as he went along a rousing lay of love and war, his quick ear caught between verses a sound there was no mistaking. Turning in his suddle he saw him-

"Hallo, there, in the king's name, halt!"

But Haliburton only flicked his bridle and urged his borse into a gallop. "in the king's name, halt, or I fire!" again came down the wind, but the pursuit

"I have my orders," muttered the pursued "I have my orders, muttered the pursued to himself; "but three of them, and in the king's name—Marry! I hope they will bear me out, for I draw the bridle for no man, until I see Hunsdon and give over my charge," and with that he patted the bay and urged it with a few encouraging words and urged it with a few encouraging words For awhile there was neither a summon

nor a shot. The wild race swept over the moorland, the turf flew from the iron hoof and fire from the flint. The riders held their breath, clenched their teeth and glared steadily ahead, whilst the horses stretched their necks, their nostrils quivering as they flew. For mile after mile the bay held on, with never a sign of distress. The birds whirred up with a scream from the bent, and the rabbits scurried right and left, but the pace never flagged. The pursuers were as far behind at the end of five miles as when they sighted their quarry. "The bay is good for another twenty yet," reflected Haliburton. "Marry! in that time I should throw them off," he muttered, turning and But at that moment the ominous ring of

a loose shoe clinked upon his ear, warning him that the game was up.



The Stern Reminder of the Chan-

cellor. With an oath that found its echo in shout from behind, Haliburton pulled up, waited for a space, then drew his dag, swung round in his seat and fired. The bell missed the foremost rider, but it was not lost, for the horse immediately following bound with a scream into the air and came down upon its master with a sicken-ing crash, and before the third, who was close behind, could swerve aside, both horse and man came to the earth over the im-lediment in front. One animal was dead; the other, however, seemed unburt, for it scrambled to its legs and made off. But of the two riders one alone rose; his comrade

had broken his neck.

With a shout of defiance John Haliburton. rising in his stirrups, dashed his discharged weapon in the face of the advancing horseman, drew his sword and awaited his on-

But the rider declined the combat by reining in his beast.
"By my soul, sir," cried he, angrily, "if I were not on the king's errand I would gar

ye pay dearly for this. Heard ye not my summons? Your papers, sir, in the king's name," he demanded peremptorily. "Marry! sir, and who may you be?" asked John Haliburton, nonchalantly, as he rested his sword across his holsters and resumed his way at a foot's pace, a ma-neuver which gave his opponent, as was intended, the opportunity he watched for It was a dare devil thing to do, thus to turn his back upon a foe, but with all his

of prudence, too, that always brought him He did not look the kind of man to note trifles, but that was just where he had the advantage of his fellows. Things that other men beheld and heeded not, he saw and marked for use. The sun at that moment was on his left, but to the rear, so that his own and his neighbor's shadow projected diagonally in front. By watching them with the tail of his eye, Haliburton could thus easily enough observe every move-ment of the man at his back, and it was he commanded him to "haud to it tooth well for him that he could, for he had barely time to note his purpose and fall upon his horse's mane, when the fellow

rashness John Haliburton had a modicum

"Faith! sir," laughed Haliburton, ironicalrath: sir, 'laughed Hallburton, ironically, "if I was not something pressed for time, I would fain give you a lesson that would steady your hand. Howbeit, as my business cannot wait now, I beg that you will excuse me."

John Haliburton."
"Well, marry! and what if it be?"
"You are the bearer of dispatches to
Lead Hunsdon?" "Well, marry, and what of that?"

"The king," went on the other, "bade me evertake you and require these dispatches; they are withdrawn." "Marry! so you say," nodded Haliburton, colly; "but what warrant have I of that?"

"You have the king's command, sir, and my word as a man of honor."
"Well, faith, these be fine words, sir," answered Halibarton, "but I have my doubt of them, for words, sir, are but air, and air will not stead a man before a king. And as for your being a man of henor, nom de Dieu, sir, you must be that -you fire so badly at a man's back," and Haliburton's mustache curled with the sneer he could not express.

"I acted according to my instructions," replied the man, turning pale with anger.
"Well, vell, give you good-day, sir," said
Haliburton, saluting him. "I must on."
"Then you defy the king?"
"Nay, I am too leal a subject for that."

"Marry! sir, without more ado, will you deliver your dispatches?" "Certes vill I, sir," laughed Haliburton,

"to the person I am accredited to, if indeed I am John Haliburton.' "Sdeath! I am in no humor for quib-bles. You refuse?" demanded the rider, with a look behind to see if the survivor was coming up, but the fellow was sitting

on a boulder with his head in his hands. John Hallburton laughed. 'Soh; you do refuse," sneered the other with a significant glarce at Haliburton's steed. "Then I must e'en do as I was bidden-foresiall you and hand Lord Huns-don the dispatches I carry," and with these words he pricked his beast forward,

but he reckoned without his host.
"Stay!" exclaimed Haliburton, handling his remaining dag. An idea had come to him; he did not think it well to let this fellow get in front of him; he might waylay him at dark further on, and that was to be provided against.

"Stay!" he repeated. At first the man seem inclined to make a dash for it, but either his courage failed or prudence warned him that Haliburton was too near to miss



He Rode Away at a Trot. "Ah, you agree," said he, affecting to

"I have need of that horse-the king's service requires it," was Haliburton's reply; then shortly: "Dismount, sir." "How, you want my borse-" the other on the part of Haliburton decided him

always be so," said he, dismounting and making as if he would ungirth.

"Hold, sir," said Haliburton, sternly;

"the king also requires your appoint-

"But my dispatches?" said the fellow, in a tone of alarm.
"You ferget I am a king's messenger," smiled Haliburton, sardonically; "I will be responsible for them."

Again the man hesitated, but his case was desperate, and he saw it. "Well, so be it," he said, bitterly: "yet if you were a man—" and he looked at the

"And I am one," laughed Haliburton, "but, unfortunately, I am a king's messen-ger before all. I am sorry, sir, to trouble you, but have the goodness to step back a dozen paces.

The man did so.

"Thanks, sir," nodded Hailburton, dismounting. "I will requite your courtesy at a more convenient season. Give you good

Whereupon, vaulting into his discomfited opponent's saddle, he gave the horse the spur, and, leading his own, rode away at a leisurely trot.

PART II. "Faith!" he drolled to himself as he went along, "I have not done so badly; the business is more amusing than I hoped for, and, certes, I have come off better than I deserved, for I should have seen to the

beast's shoes." The lameness, however, of his own animal retarded Haliburton more than he had looked for, and indeed increased so much that, in a while, he was compelled reluctantly to draw rein and proceed more slow-ly, and eventually, having an affection for the horse, he felt constrained to go for-ward at a foot's pace only.

It was certainly disquieting, for the after-

neon had waned, and evening itself was growing apace, so that there was every chance that he might be overtaken by darkness before he reached a place of sheldarkness before he reached a place of shelter. However, having great faith in his own luck, he kept on, hoping to get to some spot where he might either have his beast shod, or, if that could not be done, where he might leave it till he was free to return. Nor did his good fortune desert him, for presently he came at dusk to a house that was like to serve his purpose. It was a solitary place enough lying in a It was a solitary place enough, lying in a hollow in the moorland, with never a sign of life about, but when he rode up he found he had chanced on better quarters than appearances had promised. The host, a quiet, decent sort of man, evidently mas ter and servant in one, assured him that he would take every care of his beast: but at the same time he strongly advised Hali-burton to remain over night—the country round there, he said, was wild and difficult for travelers, and somewhat dangerous be-sides. If his man had been about he would sides. It his man had been about he would have offered him with pleasure as a guide; but, as it happened, he had gone to Berwick the day before. After considering the matter for awhile, Haliburton concluded to do as the man suggested. The nights were then at the shortest, and a rest of an hour or so would not be aming. Where he to go

or so would not be amiss. Where he to go on, he might chance to lose his way or

founder his horse. There was only one condition that caused him to hesitate, and that was that he might again be stayed either by the fellow he had tricked, or by others; but as that was a remote contingency, Haliburton, as we have said, con-cluded to remain

But, being a cautious man in the main, he saw to the stabling of the animals himself, bringing the saddles away with him into his own room, when, having partaken of a hearty meal, he thought it well, before retiring, to see whether his dispatches were safe .

It was a mere matter of form, but forms are indispensable at times, and on such an errand Haliburton felt that he ought to take every precaution. Accordingly, hav-ing satisfied nimself that his papers were safe, he was about to lie down when it occurred to him to examine those he had

Strangely enough, while inspecting his find, the remembrance of the fellow's words somehow or other flashed across his mind. "I am overmatched," he had said, his sanguine temperament and indifference to danger, Haliburton could not altogether shake off a feeling of discomfort. For a brief moment he realized what it was to be anxious, and his anxiety was not allayed when he glanced at the packet in his hand, for it was so like to his own that when he placed the two side by side he would, had he not known the one on his right to be really his, have been hard put to it to say vhich was which.

Fearful that he might grow confused he tween them, he took the precaution to mark one of them at the right-hand top corner with a scratch of his thumb nail; then, consigning both to his adversary's saddle, he laid himself down on the floor, rested his head on it for a pillow and fell asleep. His slumber, however, as it proved, was

seemed to Haliburton, he awoke to find himself at the mercy of the man he had so lately tricked. The fellow was standing him pistol in hand, apparently undeided what to do.

With a bound Hallburton made to rise but to his dismay he only rolled over like a log. He was tied hand and foot.

"Well, friend," said the man, and the prisoner could see, even in the dim light

that flickered from the small lamp on the table, the smile of satisfaction on his face

not of long duration, for presently, as it



He Came at Dusk to a House That Was Like to Serve His Purpose.

'Well, friend," said he, coolly replacing his weapon in his belt. "Ye see I was in the right; the wheel is ever on the turn; it was me then, it is you now. Ye forgot the other horse, John Haliburton, and that has undone you. Having said so much, without more ado

he dragged his saddle from below Hall-burton's head, laid it on the table, lifted up the flaps and thrust his hand within. "Aha! both!" he chuckled. "Well, sir," said he, "I will be responsible for your papers as well as—" but at this point his voice faltered, then trailed off into silence, a troubled look came into his face, and he papers d peered down at the two packets, holding them close to the lamp the better to dis-

tinguish them.

"Malediction!" he muttered, peering more closely at them, completely at a loss to know his own "Marry, sir!" sneered John Haliburton, after a long pause, during which his opponent had been engaged with bended brows examining the packets, unable to hide the discomposure he was thrown into, "ye seem in no great haste. Bethink ye, the wheel is aye turning?"

"Let it! Howe'er it turns it will never serve your turn," growled the other, "The beast ye rode is lame, and when I go I will ride my own, and take the sound one with me. There is no great

"I might come by another," taunted Haliburton. "I think that not likely," returned the other, uncertainly, his attention divided between Haliburton and the packets; "the man keeps none; but I see no reason why I should not be assured of ye," he added, gloomily.
"Tush," said Haliburton, laughing. "Ye

What hinders me?" "Ma foi! a good reason."
"And that is—?"

"Because ye ken not which of these is yours," laughed Haliburton, nodding his head in the direction of the packets.
"Which means, I take it, that you do," retorted the other, quickly.
"You may take it so, if it please you,"
answered Haliburton, with an assumption

of indifference that evidently disconcerted the man for a moment.

"Well, I do take it so, but if ye think that I am balked, ye are out, for I will go forward all the same and deliver the discrete the patches to Hunsdon. Haliburton shook his head, unbelievingly,

"Aye, faith will I!" asseverated the other, thinking he had gained an advantage.
"What, both?" queried Haliburton, lifting his brows.

"Aye, both," returned the man, doggedly.
"Marry!" said Haliburton, "that may be good policy, but I doubt if it would serve your turn. "I would fain ken why?"

"Why? Why thus: Hunsdon is no fool, and even if he be, Cecil is none. Which, now, of these tway dispatches, my friend, think you, is Hunsdon likely to act on?" "Faith, mine," answered the man at the "mine, of which I ken the tenor. When he has learnt their contents, I will



Well, friend, * * * ye see I was in

advise him which is mine and tell him that it supersedes yours. Bah, man! when I explain that having overtaken you and had your dispatches, the tway being so much alike, I was forced by the accident of their coming together to deliver both, as I was trable to say which was which, he cannot help himself."

well, ye have the advantage of me so far as the knowledge of the contents go, but, yet, I doubt, having an inkling of what my own was meant for, I doubt if he will answer your expectations."

fool. I am no diplomat, but if Hunsdon use not the one that will further the end his mistress has in view, and what that is ye doubtless ken, then, marry! he kens not his

As Haliburton had calculated, that stroke As Haliburton had calculated, that stroke finished the business. At any rate, whether or no the man had really contemplated acting as he had said, his next words proclaimed that he had abandoned the idea. "Well, sir," said he, "diplomat or no, ye play a close game. It would seem, then, that neither of the packets are to reach his hands, for you cannot, and I may not, use them."

glance at Haliburton.
"Nay, I said not so," returned that per-

on, imperturbably; "you hinted that I kenned yours, and I answered you that ye might take it so if it pleased you." Having Said which, John Haliburton leaned his "back against the wall and watched his rival with a smile of amusen ent as he scrutinized the packets each in turn, back and front, but only once again to recognize that he was discomfited. "Come, sir," said the man, looking up, as if he had formed a resolution, "this is

trifling. One of us must reach Hunsdonwe cannot bide here till the crack of doom." Haliburton nodded. "Will," he corrected. "Well, will; anything in the devil's name, course open than to put the matter to the arbitration of the sword. I will free you, let you choose your packet, and then fight you a l' outrance. The man that leaves this room alive may carry his dispatches whither he will."

Haliburton shook his head. "Marry," he said, "I will only use my weapon on a gentleman, net upon a common assassin. But even if ye were a man I could meet I would not cross blades with you now, for my orders were peremptory, and I may not go from them. In self-defense I am any man's man, but I will not jeopardize the king's business in any sic fashion as ye propose. If I did, faith, I might come off iil, for one thing I ken not your play, and more, sir, I am not too well assured that, after having chosen the packet. I might not get a stellet in my back. It may be, for aught I ken, that ye have a knave or tway by to help at a pinch."

it was a random shot, but it told; the eye of the man at the table wavered for a second, then dropped. 'Sdeath, what would you, then?" he said, with a shrug of the shoulders, fingering the packets nervously, and turning his back to the light, as if to study them to better advantage—a proceeding, however, that failed to hide the confusion he was in. "Gif ye will

neither light nor choose I trow we are not like to get away soon."

"Faith, no," answered Hallburton, with a yawn. "Faith, no; unless ye care to adventure a plan I have thought on." "Well," said the other, "let us hear it."
"Pshaw, sir," jeered Haliburton; "ye may
glower there like a cat in the dark, but ye will find nothing about me but what's ho The plan is simple enow, a fair field and no favor. Let us wait till the light come in, mount our beasts and choose our packets-our host may held them for that matter-and then let the best man, or rather the best horse, win the day."

"But how about the beasts? We may ome to words there."
"That may well be; but a throw of the dice will settle that—the chances of war—the highest call to have first choice. What

Done," said the other, with just enough elation in his voice to apprise Hallburton of what would happen.

As, however, John Haliburton stood to

win, no matter how things went, he disposed himself to wait the coming of the morning as comfortably as circumstances would permit, and very soon, much to the other's surprise, resumed the slumber from which he had been so rudely awakened The man at the table, not having the same happy indifference, or conscious that he had to deal with one of great courage and resource, elected to sleep with one eye open. so that he might frustrate any designs upon himself or his possessions. To that end he wrapt himself in his cloak, and sat down in the window seat. In this strange fashion, the one asleep, the other nodding, with the bones of contention—the packets— lying on the table between them, as if things of no account, the night was spent At length, after what seemed to the waking man an eternity of time, and when he was almost come to believe that day would ver break again, the first faint flushing of dawn streaking the casement warned him that the fateful moment was at hand. Rising with great caution so as not to disturb the sleeper be stole across the floor out of the apartment and along the pas-



As Time Passed the Beast Still Held

sage, and opening a door at the end of i looked into the place beyond, and whis-pered something to a man, who, in the dim light of the half dead fire, looked not unlike mine host. Whoever he was, he seemed on good terms with the speaker, for he no sooner heard what the other had to say than he slipped the bolt of the house door and made for the stable. The man in the ccak, apparently satisfied, returned to the room as stealthily as he had left it, and resumed his seat. Little by little the dull, ghostly light increased in strength, the gray hearn to wans and warm and grow. gray began to wane and warm and grow rosy, then by-and-by the table, the chairs, the rafters and the floors and the walls, and at last the fireplace at the far end of the room, began to show: a bird twittered on a bough without, and then, as a flood of yellow glory streamed over the world, and another day came dancing across the hilltops, a hundred flute-like throats piped out

When at last it was broad daylight, the man at the window arose and stretched himself, and then proceeded to call the host by hammering upon the table with

we are in haste." As soon as the lackey had come in, closely followed by the victuals, Haliburton, who had been waken for some time, had his bonds undone, and the three at once proceeded to fortify nature by attacking the viands, at which work Haliburton, a valiant trenchman, shewed that misfortune,

whatever else it had done, had not de-prived him of his appetite. "Perdition seize this man," muttered the other to himself; "there is no disheartening him. If his spirit be as great as his stomch he will rot be easy overthrown."
"A long bottle for a long ride," said Hallburton, jecosely, as he poured out the wire from a fall flask; "may you be last

"Ye seem confident, sir," returned the other, sowely, "he laughs who wins." "Well, Well, I have a presentiment that I will win. Howbeit, if I lose I will have had my laugh," said Haliburton; "but come, sir, your dice, your dice; this is not a marriage feast; the highest throw has "You first," cried the other, producing

"Have with you then," rejoined Hall-burton, as he rolled the cubes upon the to beat," and he threw in turn. "Ten!" he cried; "Jesu Maria! I am safe; I have

won!" he cried again, heaving a sigh as if relieved; "I choose my ain beast." With an exclamation of vexation, Haliburton rose and buckled on his sword.

"Let us go," he said.

"At once, sir," answered the other with a sharp laugh; "but faith! if you only win by losing, ye will scarce make salt to your kail."

Not troubling himself to reply to this

sally. Haliburton strode out to where the two horses were being led up and down in front of the door, leaving his adversary to settle his reckoning.

"Well, sir," said the latter when at last he came out, "if you are ready, so am I," and he handed the two dispatches to mine and he handed the two dispatches to mine host as had been agreed upon.

"Ye will stand between us so, sir," he explained, "and the moment we are up ye will give this gentleman his choice; the

packet that's left is mine. Now, sir," he cried, mounting his horse, "boot and sad-

"Ready," answered Haliburton, vaulting into his saddle. "Come, good sir, the packet."

his own from that belonging to his com-panion, without any further hesitation he made his choice, and put the dispatch into his bag; the other was handed to its own-

"Now, masters, when I say three," said

"Then one, two, three," cried mine host, "and may the best man win, though, faith," he muttered to himself as he saw the two disappear, neck and neck, over the brow of the hill, 'though faith, how is he to manage I wotna, for the best man is on the warst beast, albeit not so bad as

was aware, but it was not until about half their journey was over that his companion tcok advantage of his animal's superiority to force the pace. For some little while this person had looked to see Haliburton's animal fall lame, but as time passed and the beast still held on and looked like stayirg, a suspicion of the truth flashed upon him, and he determined to hazard no more with such a man. Clearly Hall-burton had bribed mine host the highest. In his besief he gave his horse the rein, and was soon out of sight, the fellow waving an ironical adieu to Haliburton as he vanished from sight.

Though it was now evident beyond a doubt

was beaten, John Haliburton, to all outward seeming, appeared in no wise crestfallen or disheartened. On the con-trary, as he rode into Berwick iate in the afternoon, he was so little affected by his defeat as to be able to whistle a lively

courier had arrived an hour before with dispatches from the Scottish king. Satis-



the Torn Packet.

fied on that head, and assured that it was needless for him to present himself to Eliza-beth's commissioner, Haliburton continued on his way, and was presently installed at his ease in the common room of the "Lion" tavern, regaling himself with the best the house could afford; and there it was that he was discovered by his late fellowtraveler, who, extecting to see no one so little as Haliburton, was unable to dis-semble the amazement and uneasiness which his presence occasioned him.
Looking about him to see whether any
other was in the room besides themselves, and noting only a stolld and sunburned pendicitis, it is not an expensive malady, captain of a merchant carrack dozing off nor do we have to go to a hospital and the effects of his cups, he sat himself down

on a bench hard by, and said: "Faith, sir, if I did not know ye to be flesh and blood could believe ye to be the devil himself. I wonder ye won in. Were ye not held at the gate?" "Why, yes, sir, I was," answered Halfburton, pushing the bottle and a glass over the board. He had come to have a cordial dislike of this man, who was as ready to cut his throat as drink with him, but having a mind to punish him in another

fortune, and affected an indifference he did not feel.
"Why, yes, I was stayed, but I had a
letter of safe conduct about me that got me through."
"Marry, sir, your health, and better luck

man, with a sneer. "Mon Dieu! what was there left to do?" returned Haliburton, with a shrug. "I would have fared but ill had I gone back without having accomplished any mission. However, better late thrive than never thrive. I purpose to return tomorrow."
"Why, then, belike we will go togetherthat is, if ye bear me no ill will, for I also intend to return to court," proposed the

"And why, sir?"
"God's life, man," drawled Haliburton, "ye should ken best-I but make the re-mark, for, to my thinking, the court is but

matched your wit against mine and lost Trust me, my reputation is more likely to gain in credit by what I have done than to gang barkrupt."
"Why, that is as may be," returned Hali-

burton; "but I trow, when the king casts his een ower this"—and he drew a packet from his doublet, the same he had chosen when starting from the inn door-"faith will both be stretched to the cracking." For a moment the man glowered at th torn packet, too utterly confounded for upon his brow; but at last, with a mighty "Then-then the one-the one I delivere

It is human nature to rejoice when ness, and the more the rebuke is deserved the more will the lookers-on rejoice at the guilty man's discomfiture. A case in point occurred at the custom house at one of the

tions of the trunks and bags of the passengers, all but one of whom appreciated this leniency enough to render the inspectors all possible aid in their work. The exception was a young Englishman, dressed n the height of fasnion, who seemed to regard the inspectors as personal enemies. When his turn came, the inspector said 'Have you a trunk, sir?"

ng expression.

The inspector said never a word, but in "checked" it and moved on to the next leaving the dude's entire wardrobe in a

for a moment and then exclaimed: who's going to put these things

inspector, without looking around. This the foolish fellow had to do, while the

any animal that lives with us or that works for us is to talk to him. It is all from the northeast. very well to give our pets proper food and At one of the largest institutions in the

ABSOLUTELY PURE

Highest of all in Leavening Power.-Latest U.S. Gov't Report

Yal Baking Powder

care, but it is not enough. If "man doth not live by bread orly," the animal friends of man also have higher requirements. They need companionship; they need contacks of epilepsy and mania correspond in versation. A team of horses that work regularly together have their way of talking with each other. A cat and her kittens, a pair of prairie dogs, any of our home pets which are fortunate in the com-panionship of their cwr kind, do not really need our intimacy; but they will never learn to love us unlers we take the trouble to be agreeable to them, and they will rever be half so intelligent in understand-ing what we expect them to do, if we omit

to say clearly what we want and if we are unwilling to bear out part in a friendly conversation. You talk to your pets, of course, boys and girls; we have not supposed that you do not. Was there ever a boy who wouldn't talk to his dog? The dog answers you. He wags his tail, looks up into your face, licks your hands, jumps about you, and when, in his opinion, the conversation grows too exciting to be carried on in an ordinary manner, he barks as loud as be can to give fuller expression to his feel-

CONVERSING WITH ANIMALS.

You Must Talk to Them if You Wish

to Make Them Friendly.

The most important kindness we can do

From Our Animal Friends,

Now, a boy may have a dog for a pet, and some other member of the family may have a canary. The boy considers his dog the finest, deverest fellow in the world; a canary he thinks is a stupid little thing that cares for nobody and is easily fright-ened. Let him go up gently to the canary and talk to it for a moment. The little bird will cock its head first on one side, then on the other, and will chirp a delighted answer, ending, very probably, in a burst of happy song. After a while it will know that boy's voice and will show the greatest joy whenever he enters the room. He can soon teach the little creature to come at his call, and to take its favorite hemp seed or a morsal of fruit from his fingers. If one pays no attention at all to an animal, it can not be otherwise than stupid. We know a sad story of a canary that had scrupulcus care, but was left constantly alone. Its cage hung where it could not look out of the window and no amusement of any sort was provided for it. The poor little mite died of nothing in the world but solitary confinement.

A yet sadder story is told of a child. oman who was not her mother simply fed and clothed a little girl. Day day she let the child crawl around the room where she took in washing for a living. Not only did she never pet her; she never even spoke to her! Some good people noticed that the little gurl showed no intelli-gence and could not talk. It was because she had never been taught a single word. The little girl is now bright and nappy with kind friends.

ASTROPHOBIA.

Subjects of This Strange Complaint Are Human Barometers.

There is a new disease, and as it is of a common every-day inexpensive sort, we may all indulge in its imaginary symptoms and pains if we wish to our hearts content. Unlike that ultra-fashionable disorder, apnor do we have to go to a hospital and have a surgical operation performed to be cured. The disease has been callel Astrophobia; and persons suffering from it are human barometers, so to speak prophesy the weather and can predict without errror twenty-four hours beforewithout error twenty-lour nours before-hand the approach of a northeast storm. Before a rising thunder squall they are miserable beings. There are those indeed who are utterly prostrated before and durirg a thunder storm, and some are even thrown into spasms.

It has long been known that insects and

certain domestic animals become aware of approaching changes in the yeather. They understand the heralds of coming storms, not from visual observation, but through their nervous system. Insects fly close to the ground before a storm and birds fly low to catch them. Turkeys will sniff the air and seek cover long before a coming change in the atmosphere, and, indeed, make considerable fuss about it, too. While this quality of premountion is gencral among the lower animals, it does not, with them reach the perfection attained with some afflicted human beings, those with abnormally sensitive organizations, delicate systems and nerves attuned to every physical impression

Due to Electricity.

It is to the presence of electricity in the atmosphere and its variable effect upon the nerves of these sensitive subjects that may be attributed their unenviable power cf foretelling the weather and the disordered state of their systems when storm

conditions are present.

There abounds in the air what is known as atmosphereic electricity, the existing polarity of which, positive or negative, indicates respectively normal and abnormal weather conditions. It is when the air is charged with positive electricity that one feels "good," so to speak; that is, one experfences the bracing, stimulating effects of pure air charged with ozone.

The presence of negative electricity, how-

ever, has the contrary effect, and shows one of two things, either that storm conditions are present or are approaching. regular tides of positive electricity in the atmosphere, the high, or maximum, which occurs between the hours of 9 and 12 a. m. and 6 and 9 p. m., and the low, or mini-mum, between 2 and 5 p. m. and 1 and 5

a. m.

There are those who almost every day pass through tides of feeling, which, if they do not mathematically correspond to these daily tides of electricity in the air, follow so closely as to render certain a relatio between the variable states of the system and the variable states of the air. From S to 12 a. m. is the golden time for brain work, as all students know; from 1 to 4 p. m. there are frequently a dulines and lassitude present that make hard work a task. The latter part of the afternoon

the spirits revive, and between 4 and 8 or 9 o'clock is what might be called the silver period of the day for all mental labor.

Storms and the Nerves. Irregular disturbances in the electrical condition of the atmosphere in storms, and especially in thunder storms and northeast storms, affect the nervous system of these impressible temperments most unpleasantly, often bringing on or aggravating neuas inviting mental listness and discour-

Who of us, for that matter, even of the most robust cast, have not at times felt a sort of resonance in the atmosphere, a cer-tain "feel" in the air, which seemed to "take hold," so to speak, and that, maybe, in an unsuspected rheumatic joint, this when the wind has been blowing lively from the northeast

a large number of instances to changes in the electrical condition of the air. There is nothing strange in all this, for all naturalists know that many plants pre-

all naturalists know that many plants pre-dict storms with wonderful precision hours before they appear. Man with his exalted and complete nervous system, and espe-cially civilized man, is far more impressible than any animal or flower. It is, therefore, not humane to despise

these subtie, storm anticipating pains in our friends, nor, indeed, may we ridicule the statement of a chance infirm weather prognisticator who may claim, and perhaps be able to prove, that he "knows its goin to rain, 'cause he can feel it in his jints.'

TRAPS FOR PENORSCOT SALMON. Ho wihe King of Fishes is Taken at

Bucksport. From the Lewiston (Me.) Journal,

smoking.

About this time the Penobscot river is yielding up one of its most important products and is sending to market its own special private brand of food fish, which goes ahead even of the late A. Ward's entertainment enterprise and is "ekalled" by none.

The genuine Penobscot salmon is without a peer. The Canadian imitation is a very good one, and often, very often, masquerades as a Yankee fish in the markets, but the epicurean salmon authority will tell you that the Nova Scotian lacks the fineness of grain and the exquisite flavor of the Penobscot product.

When you look at the great silver beauties on the slabs in the market you may be pretty sure of one of two things. They are Perchscot salmon or they are not. Don't try to impress more try to impress upon any one that you can tell the difference between the fish that comes from St. John and the one that comes from Bucksport on the Penobscot, because, unless you are an expert of experts, you can't do it. Here is a little pointer for you: Canadian fish almost invariably are large ones, from eighteen pounds and up, as the smallest are not shipped, but kept for

The Penobscot salmon is usually first in the Boston market, and gilt-edge prices rule until the Canadian rival comes and competition brings prices down to a low level. The first salmon taken from the Penob river each season is a very valuable fish, netting its owner at least \$1.25 per pound, and the Croesus who would dine upon that fish must pay handsomely for the privilege. This price is good for but a few tish, and soon drops to seventy-live, sixty and fifty cents. From the latter figure the slide is quick to twenty-five, twenty, eighteen, and son etimes fifteen cents, according to the supply. These prices are for whole fish at wholesale. Twenty-five cents is considered a remarkably low price for cuts, thirty-five to fifty cents being more common figures. St. John salmon are retailed usually with the Penobscot, at the same prices and at

much more profit to the marketmen, whe

buy the Canadian fish from five to twenty cents lower than those from Maine. The salmon fisherman has trials and tribulations without number. The building of his weir in the early spring is hard, cold work, often to be smashed flat by the ice or the leeward drift of some bewildered or ta forced coast deglish, porpoise, sturgeen or some other stray "critter" gets mixed up with the net-ting, much to its detriment. The scal is the particular bane of the weir owner's existence. They sneak into the pound and catch a fine salmon, scoop everything out of the skin, and leave it floating like the shell of a sucked egg to encourage profamity. In places where seals are plenty a dory with a stuffed dummy man in the stern is anchored near the weir—not exactly a "scare-crow," but a "scare-seal." This ruse is quity effectual, as the seal lacks the nerve and general up-to-dativeness of the crow who general up-to-dativeness of the crow, who, by the way, loafs around the weir for luckss small fish that get left high and dry on

the floor of the pound.
While the trap is built with intentions on the salmon, all kinds of fish come in their season. Alewives, flounders, tomcods, cel and an occasional shad or sea bass help out

the season's profits.

Twice a year the United States government fish commission buys fish for the hatchery at East Orland. These have to be kept alive and delivered to a collecting boat, which calls for them daily. For the extra trouble the fishermen get a handsome bonus, though not so handsome of late years as

formerly.
Bangor, Bucksport and Belfast are the principal shipping points for the fish. They are usually packed in ice in long, narrow boxes holding one large or two small ones, and an expert packer can land a salmon in

Chicago in surprisingly fine and fresh appearing condition.

An X Ray Story. From the Cleveland Post. The investigators whose names appear in the newspapers in connection with Roent-

gen ray experiments are a good deal bothered by applications from people who imagine they have bullets or other unpleasant foreign substance in various parts of their anatomy. The story goes that not long ago a certain local scientist received the following letter Dear Sir: I have had a bullet in my thorax for seven years. I am too busy to come to Cleveland, but hope you will

be able to come down here and locate the bullet, as I am sure the case is worth your while. If you can't come yourself, send your apparatus, and I will get one of the doctors here to use it. Yours truly,

Here is the local man's reply:

Dear Sir: Very sorry I cannot find time
to visit you. Nor will I be able to send
my apparatus. If you can't come to Cleveland yourself send me your thorax by express, and I will do the best I can with it. Yours truly,

Contradictory Figures.

From the Chicago Tribune. Mrs. Ferguson-"George, if I should cease

to care for you and fall in love with some handsomer man, what would you do?" Mr. Ferguson (with some fierceness)-"Td sue the scoundrel for \$100,000!"

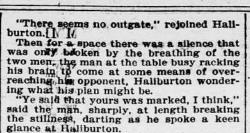
Mrs. Ferguson (applying the corner of handkerchief to her eye)—"And yet when I told you the other day how dearly I'd love you if you would only buy me that \$15 vase at Spotcash & Co.'s you only said ralgia, rheumatism and other pains, as well 'Humph!' "



"Lizzie, you's a puttin' on lugs, ain't yer?"
"Jimmie, I'm sorry I can't be as I wuz to yer; de old man, me fader, is a bankin' on a lottery ticket wot he found; if it draws de boodle he's a goin' to send me to Europe to mash a titled bloke wid blue blood a coursin' troo his carcase!"

the right." "Ah," said Haliburton, nonchalantly,

"And why not, sir?"
"Why, certes, because he is, as I said, no



Mine host, standing between the two horses, held up the dispatches.

Haliburton looked them over carefully for a second or two, then noting the mark he had made to enable him to distinguish

er, who, following Haliburton's example disposed of it in like fashion.

"Ay, ay," exclaimed Haliburton and the

that devil Kinlevin thinks."

That he had the worst mount Haliburton

Wending his way in the first instance toward Hundson's headquarters, he there learned, as he had anticipated, that a



For a Moment the Man Glowered at

manner than by seeking a brawl, he assumed the careless air of the soldier of

to your next venture-ma foi! I wonder ye troubled to come on at all," said the

"Marry, sir, I doubt if that would be rell," said Haliburton. well.

an ill place for a man that cogs his dice and lames his neighbor's horse."
"Tush," laughed the other, "all's fair in love and war—these were but tricks—ye

sir, I trow your reputation and your craig

A Lesson in Civility.

ports of entry on the great lakes. The inspectors were very courteous, and had been making only suprficial examina-

"That's my trunk," he answered, shortly.
"Will you kindly open it?"
"Open it yourself!" As he spoke he threw his keys down on the top of the trunk, and looked as the inspector with a most insult-

heap on the floor.

The dude stood looking doubtfully at him

crowd laughed. Rare.

From Life. Bleach, and the girls bleach with you;

Paint, and the others will; And it's O for the sight of a real brunette When the fashion is bleaching still!

'Was mine, sir," answered Haliburton, grimly. "I aye win by losing." (The end.) the pommel of his sword.
"Send in my man," said he, when mine host appeared; "and hark ye! what cheer have ye at hand? Give us what ye have— From Youths' Companion. churl is taught a forcible lesson in polite-

ominous silence picked up the keys, opened the trunk, and began the examination of its contents. Beginning with the tray, he went straight through the trunk, taking out and opening everything he found. He urrolled and separated every pair of socks, infolded every piece of underwear, and shook out and explored the pockets of all the neatly folded coats and trousers. When he had completely emptied the trunk, he

"Put 'em back yourself!" answered the